REMARKS

The final office action of August 25, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 14-21 remain pending. Claims 1-13 and 22-26 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Rejection of Claims Over JOT article

Claims 14 and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the NPL document titled "JOT – A Specification for an Ink Storage and Interchange Format" (hereinafter "JOT"). Applicants traverse.

Claim 14 recites:

> "… said data structure comprising:
>
> a first portion …;
>
> a second portion …;
>
> a third portion …:
>
> a fourth portion having the tag data, the tag data including an identifier means for referencing a global unique identifier in the table associated with a property of the handwritten ink information…"

The Examiner relies on JOT to reject this claim. However, JOT does not relate to a data structure. Rather, JOT relates to a specification describing how developers are to write code for ink-related applications. JOT defines variables to make the programming of applications easier for the developer during pre-compiling development of software code. JOT does not disclose any format for the data structure akin to that of the claimed data structure.

The Examiner relies on various sections of JOT when rejecting claim 14. Specifically, the Examiner relies on the '#define' variables from pages 25 and 31 to disclose the identifier means as claimed. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that these sections of JOT relate to a table and

identifier means as set forth in claim 14, these sections describe the coding technique of using established names as shorthand during the application writing process. When the application is compiled, the variables are replaced with the defined values in the compiled code. For example, referring to the definitions of color variables on page 32 (e.g., #define InkColorWhite (0xFF,0xFF,0xFF,0xFF)), these variables are used to make coding of applications easier. Instead of having to reiterate the precise the color (and having to remember exactly what color value it is) in the body of the application, the developer can write InkColorWhite. Later, when the code is compiled, every occurrence of InkColorWhite is replaced with the full length (0xFF,0xFF,0xFF,0xFF) value.

For reference, Applicants attach pages 238-240 from "The Complete Reference: C++" as relating to how '#define' definitions are used during the pre-compilation coding process.

In short, the sections relied upon by the Examiner do not relate to a data structure as set forth in claim 14.

Dependent claims 16-21 are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JOT.

As stated above, JOT fails to teach or suggest the features of the independent claim. The Examiner's obviousness determination does not address the issue with the independent claim above.

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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